

**Council Directive of 20 December 1979 on the approximation of
the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement
and on the repeal of Directive 71/354/EEC (80/181/EEC)**

Article 1

The legal units of measurement within the meaning of this Directive which must be used for expressing quantities shall be:

- (a) those listed in Chapter I of the Annex;
- (b) [^{F1}those listed in Chapter II of the Annex only in those Member States where they were authorised on 21 April 1973;]
- (c) [^{F2}those listed in Chapter III of the Annex only in those Member States where they were authorized on 21 April 1973 and until a date to be fixed by those States. This date may not be later than 31 December 1994;
- (d) those listed in Chapter IV of the Annex only in those Member States where they were authorized on 21 April 1973 and until a date to be fixed by those States. This date may not be later than 31 December 1999.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2009/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F2** Substituted by [Council Directive of 27 November 1989 amending Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(89/617/EEC\)](#).

Article 2

- (a) [^{F1}The obligations arising under Article 1 relate to measuring instruments used, measurements made and indications of quantity expressed in units of measurement.]
- (b) This Directive shall not affect the use in the field of air and sea transport and rail traffic of units, other than those made compulsory by the Directive, which have been laid down in international conventions or agreements binding the Community or the Member States.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2009/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 3

1 For the purposes of this Directive ‘supplementary indication’ means one or more indications of quantity expressed in units of measurement not contained in Chapter I of the Annex accompanying an indication of quantity expressed in a unit contained in that Chapter.

- [^{F12} The use of supplementary indications shall be authorised.]

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3 However, Member States may require that measuring instruments bear indications of quantity in a single legal unit of measurement.

4 The indication expressed in a unit of measurement listed in Chapter I shall predominate. In particular, the indications expressed in units of measurement not listed in Chapter I shall be expressed in characters no larger than those of the corresponding indication in units listed in Chapter I.

^{F3}5

Textual Amendments
F1 Substituted by [Directive 2009/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
F3 Deleted by [Council Directive of 27 November 1989 amending Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(89/617/EEC\)](#).

Article 4

The use of units of measurement which are not or are no longer legal shall be authorized for:

- products and equipment already on the market and/or in service on the date on which this Directive is adopted,
- components and parts of products and of equipment necessary to supplement or replace components or parts of the above products and equipment.

However, the use of legal units of measurement may be required for the indicators of measuring instruments.

Article 5

International standard ISO 2955 of [^{F2}15 May 1983], ‘Information processing — Representations of SI and other units for use in systems with limited character sets’ shall apply in the field covered by paragraph 1 thereof.

Textual Amendments
F2 Substituted by [Council Directive of 27 November 1989 amending Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(89/617/EEC\)](#).

Article 6

Directive 71/354/EEC shall be repealed on 1 October 1981.

[^{F3}.....

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Textual Amendments

- F3** Deleted by [Council Directive of 27 November 1989 amending Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(89/617/EEC\)](#).

[^{F4}Article 6a

Issues concerning the implementation of this Directive and, in particular, the matter of supplementary indications shall be further examined, and if necessary the appropriate measures adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 18 of Council Directive 71/316/EEC⁽¹⁾.]

Textual Amendments

- F4** Inserted by [Directive 1999/103/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement](#).

[^{F5}Article 6b

The Commission shall monitor market developments relating to this Directive and its implementation with regard to the smooth functioning of the internal market and international trade and shall submit a report on those developments, accompanied by proposals where appropriate, to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 December 2019.]

Textual Amendments

- F5** Inserted by [Directive 2009/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 7

- (a) Member States shall adopt and publish before 1 July 1981 the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive and shall inform the Commission thereof.

They shall apply these provisions from 1 October 1981.

- (b) As from the date of notification of this Directive, Member States shall also ensure that the Commission is informed, in sufficient time to enable it to submit its comments, of any draft laws, regulations or administrative provisions which they intend to adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 8

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

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(1) [^{F4}OJ L 202, 6.9.1971, p. 1.]

Textual Amendments

- F4** Inserted by [Directive 1999/103/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement.](#)